

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE 10A

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER
2 FEBRUARY 1982

A vital intelligence concern

This morning, the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence will begin a three-session hearing on the sinister activities of former Central Intelligence Agency personnel in connection with Libya. The sessions will be closed. The greatest possible degree of thoroughness must be brought to bear. The ultimate conclusions should be explicit and public.

The tangled controversy involves, among other things, the activities of two former CIA operatives, Edwin P. Wilson and Frank E. Terpil. Both were indicted in 1980 for illegally providing explosives to Libya. Both are living outside the United States, as fugitives from prosecution.

Messrs. Wilson and Terpil, according to Justice Department charges, made a deal in 1976 to use their military and intelligence experience, and contacts, to train and otherwise aid terrorists for the Libyan government. Libya was and is a brazenly disruptive force in the world which, under the dictatorship of Moammar Khadafy, repeatedly has pledged itself to murderous violence in utter disregard for international law.

Though they have not faced trial —

have evaded it, in fact — there can be little question that their involvement with Libya is appalling, and that any support they may have received from others would be equally distressing.

If they received support from people working — then or now — for the U.S. government, it is a case for the most extreme discipline and for demanding accountability from top to bottom.

The House committee will not be covering virgin territory. The New York Times has reported many details and internal investigations have been undertaken within the CIA. So far as is publicly known, the CIA concluded that there was no involvement by anyone now working for the agency or for other government bureaus. Much of the work on those inquiries, however, is known to have been done by men who had long professional ties with Messrs. Wilson and Terpil, and who may well have professional and personal stakes in having the entire matter forgotten.

For the sake of the effectiveness and integrity of the entire U.S. intelligence function, it is vital that the matter not be whitewashed.